

COLMAN'S RURAL WORLD

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Where is the farm machinery that will not be used until next season? If you have more machinery than storage room, see if some plan can not be made whereby a neighbor who has plenty of barn or shed room can let you have room for storing it. Do something. Don't let the storms, sun and wind destroy such property; you simply can't afford it. It is such neglect that leads farmers to declare that farming doesn't pay. It was a pleasure recently to hear a farmer, whose tool-house is in good order, tell how long a hoe handle had been used. His farm everywhere shows the same thrift. A neglected pile of farm machinery always tells its own story and likewise that of its owner.

THE GREAT ST. LOUIS FAIR

In progress this week, and at this writing, with pleasant weather prevailing, this, the 40th annual fair, promises to be very successful. We will have more to say about it next week.

REVIVE THE GRANGE.

Mr. C. O. Raine, master of the Missouri State Grange, Benjamin, Mo., is trying to secure the reorganization of the granges of Missouri. At one time there were nearly three thousand active granges in this state, but most of them have become dormant. In the Northern and Eastern States the granges are flourishing and have been for years. They have been found useful as well as filling a social want that should not be overlooked by farmers. The Missouri granges in former years performed a needed work, and their re-establishment would be attended by beneficial results to the farming class.

GETTING READY.

Preparation for any work in life or for any activity is often the secret of success. It is self-evident to many of us that when a man is ready his opportunity comes. To no one more than to the farmer is the necessity of being in readiness essential to success; for much of the farmer's success depends on being ready to take advantage of a good day for seeding, or for harvesting, or being fully prepared to house the cow and her young calf if cold rains prevail when it is a day or two old, or in having warm, comfortable quarters for the sow and her young litter.

Now is the season for much of this preparation. See that all sheds are in good repair where the young stock is to be sheltered. If it has been exposed to the winter storms, plan to have all young things housed. It is not only humane to do so, but is more profitable.

Make proper provision for a water supply. Such neglect, if the winter is dry, makes caring for stock very laborious and compels the farmer to endanger his own health by exposure in either hauling water or driving stock long distances, with the added risk of the cold, under such conditions, not getting sufficient water. It will greatly facilitate feeding during periods of extreme cold if feed for such times has been stored under cover where the stock is housed. Stock is kept for the benefit of the man, and hence all the conditions of keeping it should be arranged so it will pay most with the least exposure to the farmer himself. These are phases of farming that must be considered.

The wood-pile should not be forgotten until snow or bad roads make the getting of wood so difficult. Then, too, with favorable autumn weather, corn gathering should not be deferred until much of it has been dug out of snow. It is in the putting off of such tasks that often makes them so hard.

If barn improvements are contemplated, this season of the year seems the most favorable to make them. All crops have been harvested but the corn, apples and some root crops and work is not so crowded as in the spring. Then, too, this is often the best time for the farmer to flourish the paint brush. Paint is a great preserver and gives a neat effect that nothing else will.

The farmer who is thus ready does not dread the winter. He knows that the work that must be done has been so arranged that he will have much time for reading, and making plans for the next season's crops.

WEEK BY WEEK.

Editor RURAL WORLD: A certain writer in your vicinity has lately written an article entitled "The Menace of the City," in which he says that the farms are being depopulated by the towns and cities. The writer has certainly been emulating the "Sleeping Beauty in the Wood," for at least 30 years; or is he Rip Van Winkle?

The fact is that in these ends at least there are 20 souls in the country—and more than there were 30 years ago. Then between my home and the nearest town to the north were 15 miles, and but two houses in the whole distance. Nowhere in all those miles had the road a fence on both sides.

It is 12 miles from home to my county seat. There were 30 rods of road with a fence on either side. It was a vast prairie on all sides. The bluestem was rank and dense. More than once I have had to fire against a coming prairie fire; for I was the County Surveyor and I never went without matches in my pocket.

To-day all these prairies, and also the woods along the little rivers, are fenced. Not an outlying prairie. In every direction are groves and orchards proclaiming that there is a blessed farmstead. I have two sons on their own farms, which make three farms instead of one, and I am sure the good Lord that the old, back-brother is beside himself. Much pondering over city evils has blurred his mental eyes.

He also states that machinery has driven laboring men to the cities, depleting the farms of men. This is a very wide mistake. Machinery has made it possible to cultivate ten times as many acres. There can be no doubt of this among intelligent farmers.

When I was a lad I have taken up down grain with a reaper-hook, i. e., a sickle. The standing grain was cradled. I have cradled and also bound after the cradle a good many days. We could not raise many acres to be harvested by such crude means. Hands were scarcer than than now. There are, indeed, many more hired men on farms now than ever before. In these "good old-fashioned days," I have moved with a scythe with half a dozen or more men. Day by day, from morning till night have I made one swath after another for one dollar a day. It is clear that the meadows were necessarily limited by the scythe. Now with the moving machine we can have large meadows with a reasonable assurance that they can be cut and saved. I for one thank the good Lord that the old, back-breaking methods are gone, forever gone.

I have followed the plow on foot and the cultivator until I was as tired as if I had marched all day. Now, if I should do either I would ride. Yes, sir, I most assuredly would ride. I am not sure that I would turn over a foot more than when I walked in the furrow, but I know well that I wouldn't go to bed with the legache.

The writer alluded to above is, as the boys say, "off his base." He's a century, or half a century, behind the procession. In his article he has bitten off more than he could chew and has thereby impaired his digestion.

"Say, my Horatio, dream again, perhaps The nightmare sitting on thy sleeping brain Will vanish; and a sane and rising sun Dispel the dusty cobwebs from thine eyes, Thy slumber restoring."

I will always endorse anything calculated to destroy the saloon and purify the slums of our cities. I have for years fought the saloon in public and in private, and expect to all the days of my life. But I am a farmer parson and shall try and keep up my agricultural end of the double-barrel.

The men whose names are found in the lists of our cities, saloonists and anarchists, are not from the farms.

The other day on my charge I spoke at a picnic—by request—on birds and "little beauties," insects and flowers and fruits. I have addressed in other days a good many audiences, but I thought as I looked into the faces of my farmer folk that I never had more attentive and appreciative hearers. The topics, of course, were all relative to the man, and I gathered, by the many questions asked after I was done, that these topics were often thought upon by my farmer people. I don't see how it could be otherwise. One man said he knew that ants had a keen smell. I had found it out one Sunday morning while minding a contrary cow which the matron was trying to milk. I stood by the fence, the top rail of which was a pole. I noticed ants going along carrying food towards a little bar oak which formed one end of the panel. I drew my hand across the top in two places and the ants stopped at both spots and investigated. I'm sorry to state that while I was watching the ants the wretched cow gave a sudden jump and over went the pail of milk, and, worst of all, I got a scolding. However, I had proved a fact, and we had lots of milk besides that of the jumping cow.

E. B. HEATON.  
Iowa.

NOTES FROM AN OHIO FARM.

Editor RURAL WORLD: Perhaps it is a little late to write about selecting seed corn in the field, but there is still time to gather seed which will be much surer to grow and will give a better crop than seed taken from the crib in spring.

For several years my plan has been to go into the field with a sack or basket, when the first ears were getting ripe, and when I find a stalk that is leafy, sturdy and strong, bearing an ear not too high, that ear is saved for seed.

I do not pick for the largest ears, but want those of even size from tip to butt, and well covered with grain at the tip. A small cob is always desirable; and I seldom shell an ear for seed without first breaking it in two to observe the size of cob.

Good seed may be saved when husking from the shock or from the stalk, by having a box swung behind the tail gate of the wagon bed, and throwing desirable ears into it. But no matter which plan you pursue, be sure to save your seed in the fall.

It is said that a noted corn grower offered \$100 for a bushel of seed corn that would grow corn having the ability to stand drought as well as sorghum, and to bear on good corn land 75 bushels per acre.

In this connection I will say that last April I planted a small plot of some sort of Mexican corn. It made stalks 18 to 20 feet high, never showed a yellow blade in all the dry weather we had; but its ears are 15 feet from the ground; and it would not make 15 bushels per acre. I think it possible to cross the corn with some other variety and retain its drought resisting quality. Here is work for the experiment station.

SORGHUM SEED.—"Shelby" deserves thanks for calling the attention of our readers to the fact that the seed of sorghum is well worth saving. We prize it above all other grains as an egg-producing feed in winter; and our young chickens make better growth on it than anything else we have fed. It will pay to grow sorghum for the seed alone, if the seed is fed to laying hens in winter. Kaffir corn is just as good a feed, but the English sparrows will come for miles to eat it up when in the dough state, while they do but little damage to the cane seed.

MOLES do us a great deal of damage on our high lands. They make their runs up and down the hills and start washing the first heavy rain. On my plot that I have set apart for mallow next year they have worked up the soil in several places to the extent of two or three square rods in a place. We have never been successful in poisoning moles in cultivated land; but soaked corn rolled in Paris green will run them out of lawns and yards. Perhaps bits of raw beef, poisoned, would do the same work in plowed fields. We are going to try it next week. We have not dared to sow our seed on this mallow plot owing to the great prevalence of grasshoppers, but intend to do the seeding the last days of September. I mention this matter for I shall want to refer to it again.

A SUGGESTION.—Here is another item for those who write for the RURAL WORLD. Tell us of your prospective operations on the farm, and what you write them after the crop is harvested. We will all feel more interest in them. Tell us of your mistakes and failures as well as of your successes. We all know of the almost uniform success of our German farmers. I once asked one of these men why it was that Germans seem to succeed so often where others fail. "Well," says he, "you fellows make some mistakes this year and you go right on and make the same ones next year. A Dutchman don't make the same mistakes twice." The German profits by his mistakes and guards against them. The American forgets that the mistake has cost him dearly and proceeds on the same line again.

WALNUTS FOR HENS.—The nutting season is near at hand. Walnuts may be gathered in large quantities in many places and they make excellent feed for laying hens. The nuts need not be hulled. Lay them on boards until they have had a few hard frosts; then some dry put them into a shed or barn. A bucketful mashed up with an old ax, and thrown to the hens of a winter's morning, will do as much good as green cut bone at less cost.

I met a man in Chicago the other day who said that he heard me tell this at a Central Ohio Institute some years ago, and that he had been feeding walnuts ever since and considered them worth more per bushel than corn.

C. D. LYON.  
Southern Ohio.

INDIANA NOTES.

Editor RURAL WORLD: The year 1900 is fast passing, and with it passes many great events both pleasing and painful. One of the most sorrowful happenings was the great storm and consequent loss of life at Galveston, Tex. Surely nothing in the history of this country can compare with the widespread disaster, loss of life and property, at Galveston. But the pleasant part comes in the willingness of every one to help the unfortunate in their great distress, and now we see trainloads of provisions and clothing hurrying to the scene of disaster and thousands of dollars in money pouring into the stricken territory. Such is humane sympathy, that it stops only when wants are liberally supplied.

THE SEASON here has been fairly pro-

perous for the farmer. The wheat crop was a total failure, but the oat crop is a fairly good one and is selling at from 15c to 20c per bushel. The corn crop is good, not an extra one, but a fair crop. The wind in this month blew down considerable quantities of it, and many of the ears that lie on the ground are spoiled; but the wind did not cover near all of this part of country. Timothy was not very heavy owing to the dry weather in April, but the crop was secured in good condition. Pastures are livened up again.

There will not be much wheat sown here this year—some 200,000 bushels as much as much—not more than half as much as was sown the two years just passed. But I think the fly is not here. I have not seen a fly this fall; and for three years, at this time of year, they have been flying thick and all wheat ground has been full of eggs. This is a good time to sow.

Corn husking will commence the first of the month. Corn will do to crib now, if care is taken to keep all husks and silk out of the crib. We have had two light frosts, but the weather was so dry and the ground so warm that not near all of vegetation is killed.

Good No. 2 wheat sells here at 75c; corn, 25c to 30c; oats, 15c to 20c; rye, 40c; potatoes, 40c; onions, 80c; hog, \$4.75 to \$5.25; cows, \$35 to \$40; calves from \$10 to \$20; horses from \$50 to \$150.

Tippecanoe Co., Ind. ARA MARKEL.

PEBBLES FROM THE POTOMAC.

Editor RURAL WORLD: The Warren-Horse Show Association has just held its second annual exhibit at Warrenton, Va., and was a success in every particular. The grounds of this association are in close proximity to the railroad station. Liberal premiums were awarded in about 30 classes, including breeding, driving, saddle horses and hunters. For years Warren and Fauquier counties have been famous for breeding fine horses, and that reputation has constantly increased until now it is universally conceded that no section of the Old Dominion State produces a better class of hunters and general utility horses. This section is situated in the bluegrass region and affords superior pastures for growing colts. The association is deserving of its success.

WHEAT EXPERIMENTS.—The Department of Agriculture is experimenting with a wheat yielding problem, with a view of increasing the wheat-producing capacity of the United States from 50 to 100 per cent, and at the same time improving the grade, and hopes to be successful, notwithstanding the problem is a difficult one to solve. It is desired to procure a winter wheat which will be available for use in the Red River Valley, a wheat that will stand exposure and which will produce as good flour as the spring wheat now raised in that territory. It is claimed that the best wheat grown in America is the spring wheat of the Red River Valley, but wheat sown in the spring yields only about half the amount per acre that wheat in the winter yields, the conditions being equally favorable. Therefore the department is endeavoring to remedy this defect by finding a winter wheat of the Red River Valley that will be equal in quality and quantity to the spring crop, and thus solve the problem of production.

Experiments are being made with Hungarian wheat, which is claimed to be the highest grade of wheat in the world, as evidenced by the fact that in the markets of the world Hungarian wheat sells for higher prices than American wheat. The experiments seem to indicate that this wheat will maintain its high bread-making qualities here.

The department is endeavoring to introduce in the United States a wheat from which flour suitable for the making of macaroni can be produced. This article demands a wheat of the highest glutinous qualities, which are in a marked degree lacking in the American grain. The American manufacturers are anxious to obtain an American flour in order to supply the home demand, and thereby successfully compete with the macaroni manufacturers abroad for this product. Samples of suitable grain have been received of Algerian wheat which have been forwarded through the French government, and favorable results are anticipated. We quote Mr. Coville, Chief of the Division of Botany, on this subject:

"Formerly all the macaroni consumed in the United States was imported from Europe, but recently macaroni factories have been established in this country. We have no means of obtaining any statistics on this industry at present, but hope the census will give us some valuable data on this subject."

"The manufacturers have found, however, that the consumer has developed that the European macaroni are made from a peculiarly hard-grained type of wheat which we have not heretofore produced in the United States. American farmers have been growing, of course, the wheats they could market most advantageously, and these have been the wheats suitable for the manufacture of bread and pastry. The macaroni wheat in the United States in experimental quantities will, it is expected, furnish the basis for a great export of the macaroni manufacturing industry in the United States and create a

demand for the production of the macaroni wheats in those parts of the country to which the experiments now in progress show them to be adapted."

OUR FORESTS.—The gradual disappearance of our valuable woodlands is a condition that warns us that the doom of the noble forest is near at hand. The grand, mysterious forests of America have exercised a most important influence upon our nation, especially in creating the self-reliance, which is a predominant feature of American character. The trappers, hunters and pioneers who plunged into the mysterious forests received instructions in Nature's school as nothing else could give. As the forest closed behind the settler he realized that his future and that of his family must henceforth depend upon himself, his ax and his rifle, and in the school he became both courageous and resourceful. It behooves us to preserve our forests from destruction. A vigilant watch on forest fires will save thousands of acres. Kansas has set a good example by planting trees, until now where roved the buffalo in countless herds are seen green groves of thirty trees. Let every community emulate the example of the pioneers of the far-famed "Sunflower State," thus actively to future generations a timber supply that will be adequate to their demands. For ornamental purposes nothing can improve the landscape more than groves of oaks and maples, magnificence in gorgeous colors at this season of the year when every leaf twinkles like a colored jewel in the sunlight. Following the road winding in beautiful undulations through the forest landscape one is impressed with the importance and value of our fast-disappearing woodlands.

Washington, D. C. S. F. GILLESPIE.

GRAND PRAIRIE, ARK. NOTES.

Editor RURAL WORLD: The writer has a very friendly feeling for the RURAL WORLD, and especially does he value the advertising columns of the paper, as it was through this source that he was persuaded to change his residence from the old state of Missouri to a new home in Arkansas. That was in 1898. I then owned a small farm of high-priced land in the northwest part of the state, and what little wealth I had was mostly invested in the horse business. The boom and bottom had fallen out of horses, and I was naturally pretty blue over the situation. About this time I happened to notice the advertisement of a party who wanted to trade Arkansas land for horses. I lost no time in writing to him, and in due time I went down to look at the land. A satisfactory trade was agreed upon, and I was so well pleased with the country that I concluded to sell out in Missouri and locate permanently near my new possessions in Arkansas. Well, that was seven years ago, and I have never regretted the change. Still, I would not hold out the idea that this is a paradise. Every country has its faults, its good points and its bad. Whenever a person starts out to find a perfect country, he is going to be disappointed, if he stops this side of heaven.

As a farming country, this is not as good as the best parts of Missouri. But I consider it a better stock country and the climate is far superior. Land is still low in price, and to the man in limited circumstances, who knows something of the stock business, I would say, come to Arkansas and get a home for yourself and children. Of the different kinds of stock, cattle seem to offer the best inducement for investment. Cattle, mules and goats are generally healthy here; but horses, sheep and hogs frequently take sick and die. Horses brought from the North do not do as well as natives do.

GINSENG CULTURE.—I have read with considerable interest the articles that have appeared in the papers about ginseng culture. I think the statements should be taken with a good deal of allowance. Like all other fads, no doubt a few will make a fortune out of the business, but to the great mass of farmers I think it would be a disappointment.

For the benefit of your southern readers, I would like you to publish the quarantine regulations in regard to shipping southern cattle north. By the way you have never given us that information you promised about inoculating against Texas fever. I hope to see it published soon, and in plain "farmer-like" language.

Monroe Co., Ark. F. TROTTER.

CARROLL CO., N. CENTRAL MO.

The corn crop is about matured, and a considerable amount has been cut up for fodder. Tobacco has made but little improvement during the past month. Pastures have been improved by the late rains, yet the previous drought did them injury.

Silas BALLARD.

BROWN CO., OHIO.

Three hundred shocks of corn 6x3 hills cut up, tobacco is all in the barn, potatoes are dug; no apples to pick, stock in good condition, stock water enough for use, but not abundant. Hogs are selling at \$15 for Oct. 8th-15th delivery; no cattle on the market; milk cows are \$5-\$6. No seedling will be done for two weeks; many will not sow any wheat from fear of chinch bugs and fly. The first sales of tobacco 5 to 7 cents in winter cases. The crop is large, but rough and chaffy. There is a large attendance at all fairs, health is good, except a few cases of typhoid fever.

Sept. 24. C. D. LYON.

YARD GRASS.

Editor RURAL WORLD: In the RURAL WORLD of Sept. 5 Mr. Roe calls attention to the staying qualities of yard grass. In these parts plantain is an unmitigated nuisance in yards, and if this yard grass will run the plantain out, or hold its own against it, it would be a blessing to every one.

Additional information in regard to this grass would be of interest. Can it be readily propagated from the seed, and if so should it be sown in the spring or in the fall, and where can seed be had? There are many very unsightly and costly washes on rolling land in all localities, and it would seem that this grass would be well worth a trial to put a stop to this wearing away of the fields.

The despised red top, such a nuisance in the meadow, is excellent for this purpose. Cut pieces of the red top of convenient size, and two or three inches thick, and plant the sod in the bottom of the wash. The roots will spread with remarkable vigor, and no amount of covering up can smother it out. Set the sod with the upper edge considerably the lowest, so there will be no danger of the pieces of sod being washed out before they can take root. The good character given the yard grass by Prof. Phares would indicate that if it could be used in a similar way that red top can be used in preventing washes. It would be much more useful as a grass producer; in fact, would make the now waste lands on the farm of equal value of the best.

Mr. Norton says, "It is rather troublesome," being difficult to eradicate when once established, presumably. This being the case, it would constitute one of its most valuable qualities, for the trouble with all farm operations to-day is not to get rid of a valuable grass, but the supreme labor, trouble and expense, is to get valuable grasses started and thoroughly established.

Shelbina, Mo. SHELBY.

Yard grass (Eleusine indica) is an annual belonging to tropical countries, but now naturalized in most temperate climates. From this one would expect to find it growing more freely in southern states than farther north, and this is the case. How far north it will grow with sufficient vigor to meet the purposes suggested by "Shelby" can only be determined by trial; but the matter would seem to us worthy of investigation. It is not likely that the seed is on the market, but any of our leading seed companies can secure it through their southern customers. As the seed is sown naturally in the fall, that would seem to be the time to sow it, but doubtless, as with other grasses, it can be sown in the spring.—Editor.

CONVENTION OF FARMERS' CLUBS.

J. H. Theiss, president of the Concord Farmers' Club, is making an effort to hold a mass convention of all the farmers' clubs in St. Louis County, and yesterday sent out invitations to the head of each organization, soliciting co-operation. Dr. S. J. Vill, president of the Oakville Club, and George W. Sallee, president of the Mahville Club, are in accord with the movement, but the leaders of the other clubs have not as yet expressed themselves. There are six clubs in the county, each having a strong membership. The three in the southern part of county have an aggregate membership of 800. The proposition is to have the representation at the convention on the number of members, in addition to the president and recording secretary of each club, who are to be delegates at large. Clayton is the place named for the convention, and November 19 the date.

MISSOURI CROP NOTES.

JASPER CO., S. W. MO.—Wheat and oats are extra good in quality, but both quality and quantity. J. C. McKAY.  
Sept. 27.

MORGAN CO., CENTRAL MO.—Fall plowing for wheat and corn is now under way. Heavy rains yesterday will be very helpful to fall pastures.

PETER PORTER.

COLE CO., CENTRAL MO.—The weather is favorable for sowing wheat. Pastures are good. Farm work is progressing nicely. H. B. BODE.  
Sept. 28.

RALLS CO., N. E. MO.—The yield of corn and oats is nearly normal. Oats generally are good in quality. Corn is not at all good, being quite chaffy.

J. R. RICE.

Sept. 27.

FERRY CO., S. E. MO.—Wheat was sown some time just before harvest; cause not known. Oats were good, but injured by wind. Corn was damaged by drought.

A. H. CASHION.

Sept. 27.

MILLER CO., CENTRAL MO.—The weather for fall seeding has been exceptionally good, and an increased acreage will be the result. There are not as many insects as usual at this time of year.

G. R. WEEKS.

Sept. 27.

LINN CO., N. CENTRAL.—Our early corn, or corn planted in April, is good. The corn planted later is very poor on account of drought. But the dry spell now seems to be about over, as we are getting frequent showers. But the ground is yet too dry to plow for wheat.

C. G. BIGGER.

Sept. 27.

AUDRAIN CO., N. E. MO.—Apples are falling off badly. Wheat has not all been sown yet. The ground is in good condition.

GUY MCUNE.

Sept. 27.

LACLEDE CO., SOUTH CENTRAL MO.—We are having an abundance of rain this fall, and corn in shock is being damaged some from this cause.

J. M. RAGLAND.

AUDRAIN CO., N. E. MO.—There have been no frosts yet. All crops are maturing nicely. The strong winds have damaged the apple crop. We are having plenty of rain, and fall pastures are good.

J. B. POOL.

Sept. 27.

ANDREW CO., N. W. MO.—The season has been good for almost all growing crops—wheat and corn especially. Apples will probably make one-fourth of a crop. It is a little too dry for fall seeding.

W. J. BEALE.

BUCHANAN CO., N. W. MO.—The quality of the wheat this year, 1900, is higher than it was in 1898. Late potatoes are almost a total failure. Early potatoes were a fair crop, but not enough for home use.

JOHN C. BENDER.

Sept. 27.

HENRY CO., W. CENTRAL MO.—The storms of August 24 and 26 blew down much of the corn, and then the bugs worked on it. To this fact is due more injury to the crop in this part than is suspected.

H. P. BROWN.

Sept. 27.

BARTON CO., S. W. MO.—Continued rains through September have been of benefit to corn and they have especially helped the pastures, which are much better than usual. The ground is in fine condition for seeding.

S. P. FINLEY.

Sept. 27.

MARIES CO., E. CENTRAL MO.—Corn is not as good as we thought it would be. The three weeks' drought with the chinch bugs cut it short in this section. There is a good deal of grass being sown. As the army worm destroyed the greater part of the meadow last fall, our hay crop is short.

J. E. LOVE.

Sept. 27.

SCHUYLER CO., N. E. MO.—Apples in this vicinity are dwarfy and worm-eaten. Sweet potatoes are quite small. The tobacco has been badly damaged by wind and worms, the latter being the worst ever known here. The continued drought has forced farmers to feed stock dry feed.

MONROE FUGATE.

Sept. 27.

OZARK CO., S. CENTRAL MO.—There has been a great deal of wet weather since the last of August. Sweet potatoes have grown finely since the rains, though we thought they were ruined by the drought. The drought in August injured cotton considerably. The wet weather is now injuring corn in the shock.

L. E. BROWN.

Sept. 27.

TANEY CO., S. W. MO.—The continued wet weather has retarded fall plowing some. The rains have damaged cotton by starting a rank second or fall growth, thereby retarding the opening. The fruit or cotton is small. The wet weather is now injuring corn in the shock.

J. W. OWEN.

Sept. 27.

POLK CO., S. W. MO.—Wheat, oats, corn, both white and sweet potatoes are full crops, and of fine quality. Apples are falling off very badly. The corn has been attacked some by the army worm and has ruined at least two-thirds of the crop in orchards that are affected. Where there is no bitter rot the apples are unusually fine.

J. M. ZUMWALT.

Sept. 27.

MCDONALD CO., S. W. MO.—It has been very wet the last two weeks and farmers are behind in sowing wheat. The corn crop is not what the farmers anticipated on account of the dry weather in the latter part of July and during the first part of August. Hogs are scarce and are bringing a good price. Young mules are in good demand, bringing all the way from \$30 to \$50.

CHAS. EVANS.

Sept. 27.

JOHNSON CO., CENTRAL MO.—This has been a rainy week, rain having fallen almost every day since Tuesday morning, September 25. The wheat fields appear quite differently from what they did at this time last year. Then it was dry and the wheat came up in spots. Now the fields are a beautiful green, and it will have a late fall they will have to be pastured.

H. W. ROOP.

BUTLER CO., S. E. MO.—The rains



**ECZEMA CURE \$1** Large sample mailed free.  
See Ozone Co. Circular 6, 9

**ECZEMA CURE \$1** Large sample mailed free.  
See Ozone Co. Circular 6, 9



## Horticulture.

### A NATIVE SUMMER PERSIMMON GROWING ON A CITY LOT.

Dr. C. A. Peterson of this city has watched with interest for three years a native persimmon tree on the lot adjoining his premises, which has given its fruit long before frost. The tree gives its first ripe persimmons in August, and by October they are all gone. The tree has given crops at the date specified for three consecutive summers. It is a free bearer. Dr. Peterson pronounces the fruit very fine sweet and luscious. The tree is somewhat on the decline, owing to neglect and what on damage sustained during the severe cold of 1898. Dr. Peterson, appreciating that this persimmon might prove very valuable in the hands of an intelligent horticulturist, and that no matter how valuable it might be to posterity, yet he knows, in a few years at most, that the tree will go the way of all trees on city lots, he advised any horticulturist interested in establishing good fruits, to secure grafts from the tree. The doctor is very desirous of having the variety preserved, and will aid anyone calling at his home, at 447 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, in securing grafts. We hope that some of our eminent horticulturists will avail themselves of this opportunity to develop a native summer persimmon.

### HORTICULTURAL TALKS.

A NEW GRAPE.—This one was received from G. N. Timmerman, 20 miles from St. Louis, and is supposed to be a seedling. It is new to me. The bunches are medium, berry a little above, round, bright red, sweet and pleasant; pulp soft, with not many seeds. It may be worth having, but has too much of the Labrusca in it to be of value as a market or wine grape.

FUN IN PICKING PEACHES.—On September 17 I wound up the peach picking. The weather was just right, and if anyone could find more pleasure in any one employment than I did in gathering about four bushels of large, yellow, red-checked fellows, free and clear, I would like to know what it is. September 18 I received a large number of orders, about 15, that I couldn't fill. Some may desire to know what these late varieties were. I cannot tell, for the failure of the peach crop for some years caused me to lose track of them.

Two weeks after we gathered the Crosby seedlings, a stranger came to see me who wished to see some peaches of this variety, and we found several nice specimens, which shows what a fine keeper it is.

I picked nearly a half bushel off of an old tree, a seedling of the La Grange, that were very fine. The fruit resembles the parent in every respect, except that it is a little nearer round, the tree is almost a week, yet better fruit.

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR OTHERS.—Recently a young man came quite a distance to see me and get information. Although still quite lame, I showed him all around, which seemed to delight him. He brought several specimens of peaches along to get their proper names. Some he had named correctly, others were wrong. He was particularly struck with the fig trees and the fruit on them, and the Paragon chestnut tree, which is a real show just now. The whole outside of the tree is a mass of big buds, which will soon open. This young man took with him a number of fruits, also different kinds of buds that he wanted. When ready to leave he asked me to sign a letter, which, of course, was nothing. This young man went away rejoicing, and is not likely to forget his visit here.

Rheumatism and chills and fever upset me badly for a time, so I was fit for nothing, not even to answer private letters. So if any of our readers feel slighted, this is my excuse.

OUR KEIFER PEARS are falling badly, and I know of no pear that will bruise worse. The half-grown pears of this variety when thinning last that were put in the cellar, are now yellow, and by no means hard to take. They will be converted into pear butter one of these days, when I can get the boys to make cider.

What grapes I got were pressed out, and the sweet juice is in bottles in the cellar. I expect to make a little wine of the Nortons and Hermanns if the birds don't take them all.

### SAMUEL MILLER.

Bluffton, Mo.  
Since receiving the foregoing communication from Judge Miller, he writes to me that he had a fall from a ladder, which broke his leg in two places, and he is unable to walk. He is at present utterly unable to attend to any correspondence.—Editor.

### A WONDERFUL (?) FREAK.

The Japanese Flowering Crab.

The RURAL WORLD received recently some specimens of a fruit, which the gentleman who sent it regards as a wonderful freak of nature. It is claimed that it is a cross between a crab apple and a red currant (which certainly would be an astounding freak of nature), and was originated by a D. B. Wier of Illinois.

Our correspondent says: "It is the most beautiful tree when in bloom I ever saw. It is a winter fruit and can be used in place of the cranberry."

The specimens sent were forwarded to Prof. Irish of the Missouri Botanical Garden for identification. He sends the following in answer:

The specimens sent are evidently the fruit of a tree like one growing in the Missouri Botanical Garden known as the Japanese Flowering Crab (Pyrus floribunda). This particular tree is quite old and about 20 feet high, with trunk eight or nine inches in diameter and five feet to lowest branches, the latter spreading about 20 feet. It has very beautiful pink or rose-colored flowers in spring and is now loaded with green fruit about the size of a pea. These become reddish as they ripen, and while they begin dropping late in autumn, many will hang on until spring. I do not know whether they possess any value.

Some nurserymen catalog Pyrus Malus floribunda, which is probably the same thing. Others list Pyrus floribunda, describing it as a small shrub two or three feet high, which is evidently another plant. The names are badly confused to say the least.

### H. C. IRISH.

### PERSIMMONS FROM RIEHL'S.

Editor RURAL WORLD: By the time this reaches you you will be in receipt of a little package containing three pint boxes of the Early Golden persimmon, and thus you have them before you just as they are sent to market. Nine persimmons in the box, one layer filling the box up flush.

The beautiful color of the fruit, with its attractive bur turned upwards, presents a sight that a purchaser can hardly pass by without investing; at least, so we judge from the fact that it has been very profitable during the past several years that we have been shipping. The fact that we are propagating this variety as fast as we can, mostly for our own plantings, will give you an idea as to what we think of it.

We place the Early Golden above all others for the following reasons: Large size, few seeds, beautiful color, attractive bur may be eaten when quite firm and not pucker, never becomes mushy, no matter how ripe, is of the very best quality; can be kept all winter in good condition.

The tree is vigorous, productive and begins to bear fruit young. One year old grafts in my nursery are now bearing fruit. As an ornamental tree in the yard I can think of nothing nicer. The tree is shapely, furnishing a fine shade; the bright fruit makes the tree very ornamental, to say nothing of its real value.

### EDWIN H. RIEHL.

Alton, Ill., Sept. 25, 1899.  
The package of persimmons sent by Mr. Riehl can hardly be a pen-description that will justly describe them. This Early Golden needs to be seen to be appreciated. Not having seen it one might naturally compare it with the native persimmon, and think he knew the Early Golden; but far from it.

While delicious when eaten at the time of receiving them, when still quite firm, the ones that were kept nearly a week were found fit for the gods. We are assured that such fruit will find ready sale in the markets, so attractively packed, when the native persimmons sell readily—all crushed and covered with dust and ornamented (?) with dried grass.

### THE ELLISON PEACH.

Editor RURAL WORLD: Ever since the Ellison became popular, growers were eager to find a similar variety ripening a little later. Mathew's Beauty is supposed to fill the bill, but as it has not fruited in this section, there can be no dependence in it. The Ellison, a new variety, fruited with me for the first time this year and seems to be just what is wanted in this respect. The fruit is so nearly like Ellison's that it could easily be sold for the latter. It is better in quality, not subject to rot, and hangs on the tree until dead ripe. This report is made of one young vigorous tree, which bore a fair crop of very fine fruit.

### EDWIN H. RIEHL.

Alton, Ill., Sept. 25, 1899.

### THE APPLE CROP.

Editor RURAL WORLD: I would like to call the attention of apple growers in Missouri and Kansas to the various reports that have been made relative to our enormous crop of apples, which have been sent out in the interest of apple buyers—the whole thing about a big crop anywhere is all wind. This I know from letters I have received from different sections of the country—in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Illinois and Ohio. I have seen men from all these places. I have traveled around our own locality for about 100 miles distant, and 15 per cent would be a fair estimate of the apple crop; just about enough for home consumption.

I took a trip two weeks ago, 60 miles west of Nevada, Mo., and did not see enough apples to fill more than three or four cars, after leaving my own place. I have a fine orchard of over 3,000 bearing trees, grown on timberland, which was well cultivated. I presume I will have 1,500 barrels of apples, and it is said to be the fullest orchard in this section of the country. The Ben Davis and Winesaps are fine. I write this in the interest of our growers that have had so many failures, and that need every dollar that can be realized when the crop is small.

I am just preparing some fine samples for the Paris Exposition.

Vernon Co., Mo.  
J. H. LOGAN.

### THE OTHER SIDE OF GINSENG GROWING.

Editor RURAL WORLD: I have been reading the articles on ginseng growing in your paper, and wish to take exception to some extravagant statements made. I will state, first, that as a boy in the sixties in Ohio on our farm I gathered ginseng for "pocket money," getting 50 cents a pound for dry root.

I am now and have been for the past 20 years engaged in the drug business, but for the last four years giving a part of my time to horticulture. In the drug stores at present we pay \$5 a pound for wild roots, in size as large as a lead pencil to the size of a man's index finger, but the market quotation by which the grower would sell is at present from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per pound. (See St. Louis Globe-Democrat in miscellaneous market quotations under Roots.) Our drug store is at El Paso, Tex., where there are about 300 Chinamen in a population of 20,000, and we sell on an average of one pound of ginseng a year, which is at least one-fifth of all sold in El Paso, and to well-to-do Chinamen.

I was clerking in a drug store in Sacramento, Cal., between the years 1869 and 1875, and there were about the same sales in proportion to the number of Chinamen as at El Paso; but, mind you, these Chinamen have money, while three-fourths of those in China have not, and cannot afford to buy it.

Some of the ginseng articles put me in mind of Mulberry Sellers' eye water sales, "to be." There has been very little cultivated root sold thus far, and only at an advance over wild root of 40 per cent. Most growers are selling seed and one-year-old roots, therefore the ginseng business is more or less speculative. I visited the ginseng patch of Mr. G. B. Millard of Texas Co., Mo., this summer, and believe he and the Rose Hill garden are the most extensive growers in the United States. I saw plants in Mr. Millard's patch ten years old that were one-half larger than a May apple plant, and he said would average 50 seeds per plant. Each plant would cover a space 15 inches square. Mr. M. has only received a revenue during the

last few years, as he planted all the seed he grew till then. I will plant several thousand seeds this month (because I believe it to be a good investment) in a bed in my garden, partly shaded by an oak tree, and the rest of the patch will be shaded artificially.

It seems the greatest risk is from theft, some growers having lost their crop in one night after insects to be guarded against. Maurice G. Kains is our best authority on the growing of ginseng. His little book published by the Orange Judd Co. costs but 25 cents. He says that ginseng is only grown successfully in the mountains in the South and not west of the Missouri river.

Ginseng is mildly aromatic and has no medicinal properties, only in the mind of the heathen Chinaman, who if we kill him off or civilize him, where is your market for ginseng?

After the beds are made, women can easily plant and look after the crop with less trouble than an onion bed, as the mulch of leaves and shade prevent the weeds growing. The great cost of the seed and one-year roots is a drawback in starting, but one can get a start from wild seed and roots. The quantity and quality of wild ginseng is decreasing each year; consequently the price will remain high providing the demand continues. However, those who enter the business should remember the Belgian Hare craze.

W. A. IRVIN.

Greene Co., Mo., Sept. 25, 1900.

### STRAWBERRY CULTURE—PROTECTION.

That in cold climates where the thermometer falls much below zero, the strawberry plant needs winter protection is a well-established fact. There is the custom to apply mulching over the plants as soon as the ground freezes hard enough to drive on without much breaking of the crust. The date of application will depend on the latitude and the earliness or lateness with which winter sets in.

WHAT TO USE.—An almost endless variety of material can be used for this purpose. Fine straw, wheat, oat or rye straw, forest leaves, marsh grass and stalks of many kinds. What is desired is to cover the plants just deep enough to greatly lessen, but not entirely prevent, freezing. The harm that freezing or rather alternate freezing and thawing does is chiefly mechanical—the heaving of the soil and the attendant breaking of the roots as the plant is raised upward with the soil. This can be attained by more or less of the mulching material in proportion as its nature is to lie close or open and as the climate is more or less severe. Thus a much thicker mulch of corn stalks than of straw will be required to attain the desired result.

The objection to long light material like the straw of small grain is that it is likely to be blown off. Forest leaves are also objectionable for this reason. This difficulty is partially obviated in the case of straw by cutting up the material short. Probably the most effective prevention of this trouble with both grain straw and forest leaves is to anchor them down with earth or small stones judiciously placed at intervals.

WHERE TO MULCH.—How far south it pays to use winter mulch is a mooted point. It is doubtful whether as a rule it pays south of the Mason and Dixon line, except in the mountains. Some winters it pays in North Carolina. Often it does not. The objection to winter mulch at the South is that it harbors crickets and other insects harmful to the strawberry plant.

But for one purpose winter mulch is beneficial wherever the ground freezes as deep as two inches. That is to protect plants set in winter on wet, stiff soil. This soil is much given to heaving, and plants set in it in the depth of winter are apt to be lifted out of the ground by the alternate freezing and thawing. On nearly all soil, or in fact on any except wet, stiff fields or parts of old fields, the use of winter mulch is not necessary south of the Mason and Dixon line. We do most of our planting in late November, December, January and February, and get a perfect stand without this protection except on a few wet spots. But at the north it renders practicable planting at a much later time in the fall than would be advisable without it.

THE USE OF STRAW OF VARIOUS KINDS to protect blooms from late spring frosts has now become pretty general. The straw is strewn along the middle in advance and on the plants when frost threatens, and off when the danger passes.

The use of mulch to keep the berries clean is imperative. We apply it about blooming time.

PROTECTING BLOOMS.—For several years, beginning in 1887, I used cloth largely to protect strawberry blooms from frost. The kind used was a thin muslin, sold at the south for use on tobacco plant beds, where it is found equally valuable as a protection from frost and from a destructive species of fly. I found that the tarred or chemically treated cloth was much the best.

My object in using this protection was to protect the strawberry blooms from frost and also to promote earliness in the ripening of the fruit. The cloth was put on about a month before the blooming period and not removed till the berries were ready to be picked. Small, low stakes provided with wire hooks were driven in the ground at short intervals. These held the cloth securely against the hardest wind. Being low, they did not hold the cloth high enough from the ground to be torn from its fastenings by snow.

The effect of this mode of protection was fully up to my expectation, both as a safeguard against frost and as a promoter of earlier ripening of the berries. Berries under the cloth ripened about one week earlier than those outside. On April 16, 1890, the ground froze half an inch deep and frost killed every exposed bloom. Not one per cent of those under the cloth was lost. As a consequence we netted nearly \$1,500 on about six acres. The largest yield that I ever made, 11,000 quarts on one acre and a quarter, was under cloth.

Moreover, there was another very unexpected and surprising result from this mode of protection. The berries grew very much larger, giving a corresponding increase in the yield per acre. This last result is in accord with the recent discovery by Mr. A. T. Goldsborough and others that in the protection of mammoth berries the use of the cloth is essential. Just then came the large increase in the strawberry acreage in the lower regions in Eastern Carolina. While the strawberry does not grow as fine there as here, it ripens from two to four weeks earlier.

Consequently the week gained in the earliness of berries here did not justify us in diverting from our regular business the large amount of time and energy necessary to make berry growing under cloth pay us. Had I to devote my whole energies to growing five or ten acres of strawberries, I should as soon as my soil was made rich enough to grow them to perfection, protect every acre with cloth. The cloth used must be of black or very thin.

Vance Co., N. C. W. BLACKNALL.

### THE SUDDUTH PEAR.

Recently a number of prominent horticulturists, representing nearly every western state, visited, near Williamsville, Sangamon county, Illinois, the wonderful Sudduth pear tree, which is eighty years old, sixty feet tall and ten feet in circumference. It annually has borne from 50 to 125 bushels of fruit successively for more than forty years, and is the most remarkable pear tree perhaps in the world. Augustine & Co., Nurserymen, Normal, Ill., own and control the stock of this pear, and it was in response to their invitation that the company of fruit growers referred to examined the Sudduth tree, of which there are a dozen or more in Sangamon county. The visitors were organized into an institute presided over by Col. Chas. P. Mills of Springfield, Ill., and a score or more of disinterested farmers of the county testified to the merits of the Sudduth pear, the consensus of opinion being that it is practically seedless and coreless, is absolutely blight-proof, regular bearer, yielding beautiful crops every year, of fine, firm flesh, remarkably prolific and a fine shipping fruit. The trees are thirty, vigorous growers, and begin bearing at three years of age. Fruit matures early in October.

### SPARROWS EAT GRAPE.

The English sparrow has destroyed a large part of the grape crop in some parts of Oklahoma this year. The crop is not bothered in any way until the fruit begins to ripen. The sparrow then begins to eat the berry on one or two sides and eats part of the pulp. After the berry is split the bees, wasps and other insects soon destroy the entire pulp. The berry is seldom torn from the stem and the skin dries and withers on the bunch. The early varieties do not seem to be so badly attacked by the birds. No one variety seems to be attacked worse than another, but the thinned varieties suffer more than thick-skinned varieties. It was necessary this year to gather some of the later varieties as they were the only ones in order to prevent their entire destruction by the sparrows.

### The Apiary.

#### THE FLIGHT OF BEES.

The flight of the bee going to the fields is about 15 to 18 miles an hour, and its return, if heavily laden, from 8 to 12, writes E. R. Root in "Gleanings." These rates will be varied a good deal according to the wind and according to whether the bees are working on basswood or white clover. If on the latter they might take, and probably do take, 30 minutes to an hour to gather a load and return to the hive. Experiments have shown that bees, very considerably, Prof. Lasenby, of the Experiment Station at Wooster, O., has found from experiments that the average load of nectar carried by bees is .022 of a grain, which is 27 per cent of the average weight of a bee, or a little over a quarter of its own weight. If, on the other hand, the bees were robbing a neighbor's honey-can, a mile away, assuming that the average flight was at the rate of about a mile in five minutes. If the bees are gathering from basswood or some other plant where there is a large supply of nectar in a single blossom, the time might be about half that for gathering a similar amount from clover. The length of time on these trips, if they were made very considerably, and in a few days from seven to ten minutes. These figures, except those from Prof. Lasenby, are not taken from actual observation, and timed visits, but are only approximate estimates based on bicycle runs when I have chased bees up the road. I have ridden a wheel so much that I can form a pretty accurate idea of my speed, and bees were very often "take to the road" to avoid rising over shrubbery and trees when the pasture and the hives are in a bee-line with the road, as happens to be the case with our outyard.

#### BEEKEEPING UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

United States Consul Selah Merrill, at Jerusalem, Palestine, gives the following sketch of the difficulties under which apiarists in the Holy Land have to work: "Among the drawbacks to apiculture may be mentioned Turkish taxation, every hive being taxed 10 cents, and every door, window and hole in the hive being counted as a hive. Then come large yellow hornets, sparrows, swallows, bee eaters, badgers, rats, lizards and moths. "But the greatest enemy is man. Where an apiary is set down, the sheiks of the nearest village like to receive a certain amount of honey, otherwise the bees will be stolen. When a hive is stolen and sometimes water is used to destroy it. About a tenth of the honey produced may be given away to induce people not to take the hives. "When the hives are being carried from one place to another, on camels, the Arabs will occasionally steal the animals. These thieves are the descendants of the Midianites of the Bible, those who stole the wheat of Gideon's father. It's a pity Gideon has not been disciplining them in his peculiar way ever since."

#### TREATING ROBBER BEES.

Writing on methods of treating robber bees, A. J. E. Roe says: Soon after placing my bees, 20 colonies, out of the cellar, the unwelcome sound of prowling robbers was heard. Fighting was noticed at the entrances of six or eight colonies, but finally nearly the whole force concentrated at one place. I tried to help the colony by contracting the entrance so that about a space of one inch remained open.

In front of this little block was placed, which is a great help as a protection for the defense. In ordinary cases this arrangement is effective. This time the siege was continued, and in a few days the robbers were overpowering. They now began to go in and out the small entrance quite freely.

Two of the colonies were noticed to be flying stronger and with more intent than the others, so they were suspected of

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making the trouble. As a test, the entrance of the colony being robbed was screened with wire-cloth, and in 15 or 20 minutes it was removed again. The robbers in the hive having filled themselves, and being anxious to leave, came out like the beginning of a swarm. It was easy to note that they went to those two colonies in question.

I then tried the sawdust plan, even to extreme measures, closing the entrance of the robbers' hives almost entirely. But in less than five minutes they would be at their more important business again. In the evening the colony was moved to another place. The next morning the robbers were out again. Then came their downfall. The single colony was turned half way round, which completely confused them nearly all day. The next morning they were turned back, and slightly confused again. If necessary I mean to repeat the turning, but have not been bothered since.

#### BEEES ON THE FARM.

Every careful bee-keeper well knows that one bee in early spring is of more value to him than half a hundred later on. In order to prevent spring dwindling we take one of the Mason half-gallon fruit jars, remove the screw top, take a seven-eighths board four inches square, and with a small gouge or a knife cut a groove nearly from one extreme corner to the other, taking care not to cut quite to the corner, as the "Farmers' Review." We fill the jar with water, place the board over the mouth, invert all quickly, and place in convenient places in the apiary. When the sun shines sufficiently so that bees can fly it will also warm the water through the glass, and we are always able to give them what they most desire; pure warm water, and no one until he has given this a trial will fully realize how much water a single colony of bees will during the height of brood-rearing. In order to draw them from the old watering place it may be necessary to slightly sweeten the water for a day or two.

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For one year. It will pay you a







## Horseman.



Alto, 2:09, is no longer the champion trotter. At the Terre Haute trotting meeting last week The Abbott trotted in 2:03. He is a bay gelding, foaled in 1893 by Chimes, son of Electioneer, dam by Mambrino King.

Crescent won the great \$20,000 race last week at Resville, Mass., but he had a hard time to do it, as Charley Herr won the first two heats and was only a half length behind the third heat. Crescent then went on and won the next two heats.

At Columbus Grattan Boy, 2:06, was second to Crescent when he trotted the fastest three heats on record by a stallion—2:07, 2:06, 2:06. At New York he was second to Lord Derby when he trotted the fastest three heats on record by a gelding—2:07, 2:07, 2:06.

Guy Wilkes, 2:15, one of the most noted sons of George Wilkes, died last week at Rockport, Ohio, aged 21. He was the sire of Fred Kohl, 2:07; Hulda, 2:08; Lena Wilkes, 2:09; Muta Wilkes, 2:11; Mary Best, 2:12; Regal Wilkes, 2:13; Sable Wilkes, 2:18, and a score of other 2:30 performers.

The turf papers have been publishing the statement that J. M. Nickell of Hamilton, Mo., has sold Admiral Symmes, 2:17, to Otto Kichbush, Wausau, Wis. They have had the "wrong" son by the ear. Instead of Admiral Symmes it is Bel Spirit, 2:12, trotting, by Bow Bell, dam Alabama, 2:15, by Curtis Hambleton, that Mr. Nickell has sold to Mr. Kichbush.

Another new performer for Missouri is the eight-year-old brown stallion, Tom Keler, 2:13, by Happy Herd 3531, dam Slop, by Flying Cloud (pacer), granddam by Ball R, third dam Minnie Messenger (dam of Cora C, 2:28), by Auditor 778, fourth dam by Chiles Harold, fifth dam by Boston. Tom Keler stands 15 1/2 hands, is a game race horse, and was bred by William McVane, of Kearney, Mo., who still owns him. Tom Keler won a seven heat race at St. Joe, Mo.

Horse stealing has become so common in and around Crown Point, Ind., that the citizens of Center township have called a meeting to form a Horse Thief Protective Association, consisting of every horse owner in the township. The thieves are believed to be from Chicago, and are so organized that the sheriff cannot cope with them. During the past few days the gang has stolen four fine animals in Crown Point, and in every case they have been turned out during the time the J. F. Ramsey is campaigning a string. When Ramsey turned him out he was going one-eighth of a mile in 18 seconds, with 10 weeks' handling, and could have shown better, but we believe in taking it slow, as we do not sanction the practice of pushing a growing colt to his limit. Grattan Chief has an exceedingly level head, is perfectly galloped and trots like a machine. This fellow will beat watching. His dam was a perfectly galloped trotter, and could show a 2:30 gait without any training whatever.

The last week was a very unfortunate one for fairs and trotting meetings. The Illinois State Fair suffered a heavy loss, as did the Terre Haute trotting meeting. The continuous rain prevented the trotting and pacing races, and they always draw the large crowds. There must be something in the equinoctial storm theory, that is, when the sun crosses the equatorial line, September 21, rain is almost always sure to come, and a rainy week at about that time may be expected. Both the Illinois State Fair and the Terre Haute Associations have frequently suffered severely by holding their meetings on this week, and they have both determined to abandon this week and select some other time. While we think one week, take one year with another, is as good as any other week, yet we must bow to facts, and we can't blame these associations for trying some other date.

It begins to look now as if those who, a few years ago, hooted at the idea of trotting horses ever being as high again as they were ten years ago, will be greatly cooled, and that much sooner than the most hopeful could believe possible. It is with everything else, so it is with trotting horses, namely, when low in price no one wants to purchase. From a truly business point of view, the horse breeding industry in this country was never in a more favorable condition for horse breeders. The supply in sight is not only low, but a continuous shortage for years to come is as plain as anything in the future can be. The horse breeding business, especially the trotting horse breeding business, is in quite a different condition now than it was ten years ago, and it is likely to thus remain. Then the proper "caper" for every business man who happened to have an idle bank account was to go into the trotting horse breeding business, thus fairly running the country over with trotters which could not trot, and were of no particular account for anything.

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As an instance of a horse developing speed late in life, Connor, 2:04, is without a parallel. Never before has one of 11 years paced in 2:04 better for the first time in his life. That he has done this is not only, but after having campaigned for ten successive seasons in next to phenomenal.

After trying Solon Grattan all summer without success, Roy Miller has decided to turn the horse over to Mr. J. M. Nickell, the gentleman who developed him and raced him last year, to see if he can ever get him straightened out, says Yarrum in "Horse Review." From what I have seen of Mr. Nickell at the western races, I consider him an artist with a horse that needs a little tinkering, and I want to predict that he will soon have Solon in such shape that he will start his first at Springfield, Ill., this week. Miller had some trouble in balancing Solon early in the spring, and it looked as if he had him right when he took his record of 2:14 at Detroit, but he afterwards hit his hocks so hard that he was laid on the shelf for a time. I did not see him last year, but they say he was a clean-galloped trotter, and I think that when Nickell takes him into a dark stall and asks him what trouble is the horse will tell him all about it in a minute.

Two of the four races at Terre Haute, Monday, September 24, furnished sharp contests. The track was good and the time fast. The attendance was light and so was the betting. Daisy J., an Ohio mare, was the favorite in the 2:16 pace and sold for \$25, against \$50 for the field. The favorite won the first heat in 2:11, lost the second and third to Ione, in 2:04; won the fourth in 2:08, but was out-lasted in the fifth and beaten by Ione in 2:10. The Kentucky Stock Farm pure for two-year-old trotters brought four richly bred ones to the market. The winner turned in Hawthorne, by Jay Bird, dam by Hambrino; time, 2:25, 2:25, 2:25. Major Green was played at odds of two to one to beat the 2:26 trotters and fell by the wayide and had to be contented with a division of third and fourth money. Crito, by Falmont, won the race in 2:15, 2:14, 2:15; Lady Thelie taking the second heat in 2:15, Lady All Right, by Senator Rose, won the 2:30 pace in straight heats. Time, 2:15, 2:12, 2:15.

At the Cleveland meeting the Geo. Wilkes' made a strong showing, for eight of the 20 winners were descendants of George Wilkes in the male line, and two of the female line. Making just half of the total number with a strain of Wilkes blood. How strong this showing really is, is best realized when it is stated that Electioneer was represented by just one winner—Borloma, and he carries a dash of Wilkes blood also in his pedigree. The winners descended from George Wilkes in the male line were: Coney, 2:24, by McKinney; Gayton, 2:04, by Allerton; White Horse, 2:04, by White Foot; Silver Alice, 2:10, by Baron Wilkes; Helen Simmons, 2:14, by Simmons; Cornelia Belle, 2:12, by Onward; Annie Burns, 2:13, by Bobby Burns; Onward Silver, 2:14, by Onward. The two winners that trace to George Wilkes through their dams are Hetty G., 2:04, whose dam was by Beterton; Conny Direct, 2:06, out of a mare by Simmons. It should be said that one of the Wilkes performers traced to Electioneer through her dam, that one being Cornelia Belle, out of a mare by St. Bel.

If the exigency of the occasion is met there will be plenty of work for good, reliable and honorable speed developers from this time on for some years, for it is plain to all observers that campaigning material will be below requirements another year, and will remain below requirements for at least three or four years—until the "new crop" of trotters and pacers reaches the racing age, says the "Western Horseman." Not for ten years at least have conditions been so favorable for breeders to make good profits on training operations, and the breeder who now has promising young prospects and fails to have them developed offers obstruction to his own financial gain. Speed buyers are plentiful, but they have not yet reached that degree of anxiety to own a race horse that will prompt them to bid up much on undeveloped animals, however well bred they may be. Well bred youngsters need not be fully developed to meet with active demand at fair prices, but they must have sufficient education to show spurts of extreme speed, and a good way of going. For such as these good prices will rule the coming winter and spring, and the more extensive the development the better will be the price. Results so far this season clearly show that many celebrated money winners of last season are about "done for," and as most all high-class horses were raced harder last season than during any previous season, the retiring process will take from the trotting turf next season hundreds of horses whose names have graced entry lists and summaries, and this loss will be so great as to be seriously felt. This loss must be compensated for, and that compensation must come largely from absolute newcomers to the turf. It, therefore, behooves owners of well bred green horses and young things to place them in competent hands for development. The operation will pay handsomely on the investment, and the finished products will be greatly needed on the turf in the immediate future.

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## FROM THE DAVIS FARM.

Editor RURAL WORLD: I beg to report the loss, after six weeks' illness with a complication of troubles, the bay stallion Minos. He was a horse much thought of in our section as a trotter and general purpose sire. He was 16 1/2 hands high, weighed 1,500 pounds, and as active and handy as a 900-pound horse. He was sired by Monocrat (Colman's), dam Besie, by Chief Executive, great dam by St. Lawrence, etc. I also lost same day the brood mare Nettle, by Brazilian, dam Besie, as above. She was sick less than 30 minutes from an internal rupture. She had a nice daughter by Grattan at foot.

I also beg to report the purchase of the trotting mare Sontag Clay, 2:24. While 20 years old, she is as hearty and well preserved as a 12-year-old, and can show better than a 2:30 gait now. She is by Selk Warner, dam Jennie Pratt, by C. M. Clay, grand dam by Toronto City. I understand that she has a granddaughter in Texas that at two years showed a trial mile in 2:12. She has a four-year-old Grattan filly that early this season showed a mile in 2:17. I bred her to Sphinx, 2:20, and she is now safely in foal. I look for something great from her.

CHAS. BECK.

St. Louis Co., Mo.

## GUY WILKES IS DEAD.

This famous son of George Wilkes died September 19 at the Two Minute Trot Farm of Hon. W. J. White, Glenville, Ohio, at the age of 21, says "The Horseman." Mr. White bought the stallion four years ago, paying \$5,000 for him at auction, when he was delicate and almost feeble, but regained his vigor under the careful attention of Charles Kline, superintendent of the farm. Guy Wilkes, William Corbett and San Mateo farm, became famous together, for at the head of that extensive California stud the stallion was given an opportunity to show his speed. The first quarter was covered in 1:21, and then the operator pushed the machine down the home stretch for all it was worth. There was a slight puffing, a little rumbling, and the "mobile" went under the wire in 1:53, followed by the cheers of the crowd. But what followed was not the least expected by the spectators. After it had gone under the wire and was moving fastly down toward the eighth, Starter Bain asked if the operator wanted another chance, but did not have a chance to get an answer. The cries of the spectators and sight of the "mobile" enveloped in flames made it known to Mr. Bain that the machine would never make another attempt. Near the eighth the machine was standing in the middle of the track, deserted and enveloped in a mass of flames. The operator and the "doctor" were standing off near the fence watching the progress of the flames, while thousands of spectators ran toward the burning vehicle and watched the thing as it slowly passed away, leaving two solitary wheels and the steel framework behind. In his enthusiastic effort to make a world's record the "doctor" injected too much gasoline and it took fire and burned the "mobile" to nothingness.

WALNUT BOY, 2:14.

Traveler in the "Western Horseman" says: "My remarks concerning Walnut Boy, 2:15, were objected to by L. E. Clement, in COLMAN'S RURAL WORLD. As there are many different reasons for thinking a horse great, or the greatest in a locality or in a state, the horse that is great in the greatest number of tests should stand as the greatest horse. Mr. Clement names several horses, each in himself a good one, and worthy of anyone's patronage. I am not a person who cares to tear down what others build, but would much rather lend a helping hand. So, instead of calling attention to the weakness of any mentioned horse, or giving any horses a lot of free advertising, as friend "Ozark" calls Clement down for doing, I will only refer to a few of the reasons why I think Walnut Boy the greatest horse in Missouri. One is because he has had no Blue Bull blood to help him out, which is excuse enough, surely. Another reason, and in my opinion the one that should always be first, is that he has a great sire and a great dam. The sire has over 50 per cent of all his get in the standard list, a feat not equaled by even Electioneer, and nearly one-seventh in the 2:15 list. His dam has three in the 2:20 list, with a contrary of about 2:15. After knowing what traits the ancestors possessed, and finding them to be what we wish our colts to possess, then let us see the individual, and learn if he himself possesses these qualities. In the case at hand we find a wonderfully beautiful fellow, coal black, sixteen hands high, and weighing 1,300 pounds—some of the most magnificent specimens of the breed. He has a disposition that is perfect; a ten-year-old boy can handle him at any time. He has shown his speed, having worked a mile as low as 2:04, and several around 2:07. His record of 2:15 was made after a severe accident, which caused his retirement, but he has fully recovered, and do not forget the fact that all this was done with wire that was not even foot, which is a small excuse for no record. His location was such that he never served no first-class mares, and his four in the 2:17 list were out of common mares, none of which was eligible to registry as standard. One of these four—Bob C—is dead. Each of the others has shown better than 2:10, and all were early to come to their speed. Guy Wilkes' owner had the horse for good for a mile in 2:05 this summer. I am in receipt of letters from trainers who are fitting some youngsters from the better bred mares that have been bred to Walnut Boy, since his worth has been shown, and they are ready to back them now to a break. So, if any one wants a match between several of the get of some stallion in Missouri and the same number of the get of Walnut Boy, they can be accommodated. In looking over the races that Walnut Boy was in, I find that he beat such good ones as Guy Wilkes and Atlantic King, and they are the best of the Blue Bulls. If he had a few mares of that blood to help him out, Mr. Callison could dispose of his mares that carry the blood of Electioneer, Mambrino Patchen, Woodford Knox, Volunteer, Aberdeen, etc. I am a friend of the Blue Bull blood, and do not think I ever saw a better 2-year-old than Veta, 2:30, but I cannot help noticing that where they are great they have a Hambleton top cross, but I cannot help wondering why this is thus."

Forestville, Ct., Aug. 14, 1898.

Mr. W. F. Young, Springfield, Mass.: Dear Sir—These remarks I have been tried to form, causing a large weeping-sweat to form, which caused me a great deal of pain and was not relieved by any of the usual remedies recommended, but with no result. One bottle of Absorbine entirely removed the weeping-sweat, and strengthened the wrist and relieved me of all pain and at the late date of writing this testimonial of the virtue of Absorbine. I have had no return of the trouble. I have also used it with results on my horse. Try it and see what it will do in my advice. Yours truly, A. F. STEPHENSON.

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## The Markets

**WHEAT**, on track—Dull. No. 2 red higher; but all else very heavy, weak and dull.

No. 2 red at 75½c to 76½c (mainly at 76c) delivered this side, and at 76c to 76½c delivered to East Side.

No. 3 red at 74c delivered this side (fancy car 75½c) and fancy delivered to East Side at 75½c.

No. 4 at range of 60c to 66c delivered (real fancy cars at 76c).

No. 2 hard at 72½c to 73c delivered (one car at 72½c).

No. 3 hard at 71½c to 72c delivered.

**RAPID CORN**, on track—Easy for mixed, and dull, white lower.

No. 2 mixed, 35½c to 36c (new 25½c delivered).

No. 3 mixed, 35½c delivered.

No. 2 yellow, 36½c to 37c.

No. 2 white, 41½c to 42c delivered.

No. 3 white, 41c.

**SAMPLE CORN**, on track—White stiff, demand good. Mixed higher.

No. 2 mixed, 23½c to 24c for ordinary to choice.

No. 3 mixed, 23c delivered.

No. 4 mixed, 23c nominal.

No. 2 Northern mixed, 24½c to 25c—latter fancy clipped.

No. 2 white, 27c.

No. 3 white, 27½c to 28c.

No. 4 white, 28½c to 29c.

**RYE**—No. 2 nominal at 55c delivered to East Side.

### PRICES ON 'CHANGE.

The following tables show the range of prices in futures and cash markets:

Wheat—	Closed Saturday.	Range	Closed Sunday.
Oct. '00	74½	75 b	75 b
Nov. '00	75	75½ b	75½ b
Dec. '00	75½	76 b	76 b
Jan. '01	76	76½ b	76½ b
Feb. '01	76½	77 b	77 b
Mar. '01	77	77½ b	77½ b
Apr. '01	77½	78 b	78 b
May '01	78	78½ b	78½ b
June '01	78½	79 b	79 b
July '01	79	79½ b	79½ b
Aug. '01	79½	80 b	80 b
Sept. '01	80	80½ b	80½ b
Oct. '01	80½	81 b	81 b
Nov. '01	81	81½ b	81½ b
Dec. '01	81½	82 b	82 b
Jan. '02	82	82½ b	82½ b
Feb. '02	82½	83 b	83 b
Mar. '02	83	83½ b	83½ b
Apr. '02	83½	84 b	84 b
May '02	84	84½ b	84½ b
June '02	84½	85 b	85 b
July '02	85	85½ b	85½ b
Aug. '02	85½	86 b	86 b
Sept. '02	86	86½ b	86½ b
Oct. '02	86½	87 b	87 b
Nov. '02	87	87½ b	87½ b
Dec. '02	87½	88 b	88 b
Jan. '03	88	88½ b	88½ b
Feb. '03	88½	89 b	89 b
Mar. '03	89	89½ b	89½ b
Apr. '03	89½	90 b	90 b
May '03	90	90½ b	90½ b
June '03	90½	91 b	91 b
July '03	91	91½ b	91½ b
Aug. '03	91½	92 b	92 b
Sept. '03	92	92½ b	92½ b
Oct. '03	92½	93 b	93 b
Nov. '03	93	93½ b	93½ b
Dec. '03	93½	94 b	94 b
Jan. '04	94	94½ b	94½ b
Feb. '04	94½	95 b	95 b
Mar. '04	95	95½ b	95½ b
Apr. '04	95½	96 b	96 b
May '04	96	96½ b	96½ b
June '04	96½	97 b	97 b
July '04	97	97½ b	97½ b
Aug. '04	97½	98 b	98 b
Sept. '04	98	98½ b	98½ b
Oct. '04	98½	99 b	99 b
Nov. '04	99	99½ b	99½ b
Dec. '04	99½	100 b	100 b
Jan. '05	100	100½ b	100½ b
Feb. '05	100½	101 b	101 b
Mar. '05	101	101½ b	101½ b
Apr. '05	101½	102 b	102 b
May '05	102	102½ b	102½ b
June '05	102½	103 b	103 b
July '05	103	103½ b	103½ b
Aug. '05	103½	104 b	104 b
Sept. '05	104	104½ b	104½ b
Oct. '05	104½	105 b	105 b
Nov. '05	105	105½ b	105½ b
Dec. '05	105½	106 b	106 b
Jan. '06	106	106½ b	106½ b
Feb. '06	106½	107 b	107 b
Mar. '06	107	107½ b	107½ b
Apr. '06	107½	108 b	108 b
May '06	108	108½ b	108½ b
June '06	108½	109 b	109 b
July '06	109	109½ b	109½ b
Aug. '06	109½	110 b	110 b
Sept. '06	110	110½ b	110½ b
Oct. '06	110½	111 b	111 b
Nov. '06	111	111½ b	111½ b
Dec. '06	111½	112 b	112 b
Jan. '07	112	112½ b	112½ b
Feb. '07	112½	113 b	113 b
Mar. '07	113	113½ b	113½ b
Apr. '07	113½	114 b	114 b
May '07	114	114½ b	114½ b
June '07	114½	115 b	115 b
July '07	115	115½ b	115½ b
Aug. '07	115½	116 b	116 b
Sept. '07	116	116½ b	116½ b
Oct. '07	116½	117 b	117 b
Nov. '07	117	117½ b	117½ b
Dec. '07	117½	118 b	118 b
Jan. '08	118	118½ b	118½ b
Feb. '08	118½	119 b	119 b
Mar. '08	119	119½ b	119½ b
Apr. '08	119½	120 b	120 b
May '08	120	120½ b	120½ b
June '08	120½	121 b	121 b
July '08	121	121½ b	121½ b
Aug. '08	121½	122 b	122 b
Sept. '08	122	122½ b	122½ b
Oct. '08	122½	123 b	123 b
Nov. '08	123	123½ b	123½ b
Dec. '08	123½	124 b	124 b
Jan. '09	124	124½ b	124½ b
Feb. '09	124½	125 b	125 b
Mar. '09	125	125½ b	125½ b
Apr. '09	125½	126 b	126 b
May '09	126	126½ b	126½ b
June '09	126½	127 b	127 b
July '09	127	127½ b	127½ b
Aug. '09	127½	128 b	128 b
Sept. '09	128	128½ b	128½ b
Oct. '09	128½	129 b	129 b
Nov. '09	129	129½ b	129½ b
Dec. '09	129½	130 b	130 b
Jan. '10	130	130½ b	130½ b
Feb. '10	130½	131 b	131 b
Mar. '10	131	131½ b	131½ b
Apr. '10	131½	132 b	132 b
May '10	132	132½ b	132½ b
June '10	132½	133 b	133 b
July '10	133	133½ b	133½ b
Aug. '10	133½	134 b	134 b
Sept. '10	134	134½ b	134½ b
Oct. '10	134½	135 b	135 b
Nov. '10	135	135½ b	135½ b
Dec. '10	135½	136 b	136 b
Jan. '11	136	136½ b	136½ b
Feb. '11	136½	137 b	137 b
Mar. '11	137	137½ b	137½ b
Apr. '11	137½	138 b	138 b
May '11	138	138½ b	138½ b
June '11	138½	139 b	139 b
July '11	139	139½ b	139½ b
Aug. '11	139½	140 b	140 b
Sept. '11	140	140½ b	140½ b
Oct. '11	140½	141 b	141 b
Nov. '11	141	141½ b	141½ b
Dec. '11	141½	142 b	142 b
Jan. '12	142	142½ b	142½ b
Feb. '12	142½	143 b	143 b
Mar. '12	143	143½ b	143½ b
Apr. '12	143½	144 b	144 b
May '12	144	144½ b	144½ b
June '12	144½	145 b	145 b
July '12	145	145½ b	145½ b
Aug. '12	145½	146 b	146 b
Sept. '12	146	146½ b	146½ b
Oct. '12	146½	147 b	147 b
Nov. '12	147	147½ b	147½ b
Dec. '12	147½	148 b	148 b
Jan. '13	148	148½ b	148½ b
Feb. '13	148½	149 b	149 b
Mar. '13	149	149½ b	149½ b
Apr. '13	149½	150 b	150 b
May '13	150	150½ b	150½ b
June '13	150½	151 b	151 b
July '13	151	151½ b	151½ b
Aug. '13	151½	152 b	152 b
Sept. '13	152	152½ b	152½ b
Oct. '13	152½	153 b	153 b
Nov. '13	153	153½ b	153½ b
Dec. '13	153½	154 b	154 b
Jan. '14	154	154½ b	154½ b
Feb. '14	154½	155 b	155 b
Mar. '14	155	155½ b	155½ b
Apr. '14	155½	156 b	156 b
May '14	156	156½ b	156½ b
June '14	156½	157 b	157 b
July '14	157	157½ b	157½ b
Aug. '14	157½	158 b	158 b
Sept. '14	158	158½ b	158½ b
Oct. '14	158½	159 b	159 b
Nov. '14	159	159½ b	159½ b
Dec. '14	159½	160 b	160 b
Jan. '15	160	160½ b	160½ b
Feb. '15	160½	161 b	161 b
Mar. '15	161	161½ b	161½ b
Apr. '15	161½	162 b	162 b
May '15	162	162½ b	162½ b
June '15	162½	163 b	163 b
July '15	163	163½ b	163½ b
Aug. '15	163½	164 b	164 b
Sept. '15	164	164½ b	164½ b
Oct. '15	164½	165 b	165 b
Nov. '15	165	165½ b	165½ b
Dec. '15	165½	166 b	166 b
Jan. '16	166	166½ b	166½ b
Feb. '16	166½	167 b	167 b
Mar. '16	167	167½ b	167½ b
Apr. '16	167½	168 b	168 b
May '16	168	168½ b	168½ b
June '16	168½	169 b	169 b
July '16	169	169½ b	169½ b
Aug. '16	169½	170 b	170 b
Sept. '16	170	170½ b	170½ b
Oct. '16	170½	171 b	171 b
Nov. '16	171	171½ b	171½ b
Dec. '16	171½	172 b	172 b
Jan. '17	172	172½ b	172½ b
Feb. '17	172½	173 b	173 b
Mar. '17	173	173½ b	173½ b
Apr. '17	173½	174 b	174 b
May '17	174	174½ b	174½ b
June '17	174½	175 b	175 b
July '17	175	175½ b	175½ b
Aug. '17	175½	176 b	176 b
Sept. '17	176	176½ b	176½ b
Oct. '17	176½	177 b	177 b
Nov. '17	177	177½ b	177½ b
Dec. '17	177½	178 b	178 b
Jan. '18	178	178½ b	178½ b
Feb. '18	178½	179 b	179 b
Mar. '18	179	179½ b	179½ b
Apr. '18	179½	180 b	180 b
May '18	180	180½ b	180½ b
June '18	180½	181 b	181 b
July '18	181	181½ b	181½ b
Aug. '18	181½	182 b	182 b
Sept. '18	182	182½ b	182½ b
Oct. '18	182½	183 b	183 b
Nov. '18	183	183½ b	183½ b
Dec. '18	183½	184 b	184 b
Jan. '19	184	184½ b	184½ b
Feb. '19	184½	185 b	185 b
Mar. '19	185	185½ b	185½ b
Apr. '19	185½	186 b	186 b
May '19	186	186½ b	186½ b
June '19	186½	187 b	187 b
July '19	187	187½ b	187½ b
Aug. '19	187½	188 b	188 b
Sept. '19	188	188½ b	188½ b
Oct. '19	188½	189 b	189 b
Nov. '19	189	189½ b	189½ b
Dec. '19	189½	190 b	190 b
Jan. '20	190	190½ b	190½ b
Feb. '20	190½	191 b	191 b
Mar. '20	191	191½ b	191½ b
Apr. '20	191½	192 b	192 b
May '20	192	192½ b	192½ b
June '20	192½	193 b	193 b
July '20	193	193½ b	193½ b
Aug. '20	193½	194 b	194 b
Sept. '20	194	194½ b	194½ b
Oct. '20	194½	195 b	195 b
Nov. '20	195	195½ b	195½ b
Dec. '20	195½		